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IN THE UNITED STATES
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Applicant: Carter, et al.

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For: "MATERIALS AND METHODS FOR
IMPROVED BONE TENDON BONE
TRANSPLANTATION"

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Group Art Unit: 3738

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Examiner: Alvin Stewart

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SECOND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Sir:

In response to the Final Official Action of November 18, 2003, for which a response was due February 18, 2004, now extended three (2) months to March 18, 2004, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner exercise his discretion under and consider the following response filed under § 1.116

This response is accompanied by a request for a second month extension of time and a check in the amount of \$310 to cover the difference between the first month and the second month. The fee (\$110) for first month extension of time was already paid with the Applicants' filing of 02/02/04.

These and other advantageous aspects of the subject invention are described in further detail below.

Detailed Description of the Drawings

5 **Figure 1** shows an embodiment of a BTB having a groove with a thread profile disposed thereon.

AS 04/14/04
Figures 2A - 2C
10 **Figure 2** shows a side view of three different embodiments of BTBs in accordance with the subject invention.

Figure 3 depicts a frontal view of a donor area for harvesting BTBs in accordance with the teachings herein.

Figure 4 is a depiction of another embodiment of the invention illustrating a reconstruction of an injured area through implantation of a BTB in accordance with the teachings herein.

15 **Figure 5** shows a side view of a BTB core cutter of the subject invention designed for harvesting BTB grafts.

Figure 6A shows a close up view of a teeth configuration that is less desired for use with the subject invention.

20 **Figure 6B** shows a close up view of a preferred embodiment of the teeth of the embodiment shown in Figure 5.

Figure 7 is a blown up view of the circled region as shown in Figure 5.

Figure 8 is three dimensional side view of a further embodiment of the subject BTB that comprises one block that is tapered on both ends.

Detailed Disclosure of the Invention

25 Referring to Figure 1, there is shown an embodiment directed to a BTB 100 comprising a first bone block 110 and a second bone block 120 interconnected by a tendon 130, wherein each bone block has been pre-shaped into dowels. The term "tendon" as used herein is intended in its broad sense and refers to fibrous connective tissue for use in grafts, such as, but not limited to, tendons, ligaments and demineralized 30 bone. The terms "BTB" or "bone tendon bone graft" as used herein refer to a graft implant that comprises one or more tendon portions and one or more bone portions. The